

Yellow Bartsia in the Glasgow AreaJ.A. McMULLEN
& P. MACPHERSON

The hemi-parasite *Parentucellia viscosa* (Plate 3b, p.533) (Scrophulariaceae) is a rarity in Scotland with only a small number of past and present localities. The range of *P. viscosa* in the British Isles is largely restricted to the south-west of England and Ireland, particularly near the coast and its few, usually ephemeral, Scottish occurrences are often introductions from grass seed. In such situations it is probably susceptible to grazing and mowing. There are no previous records from the Glasgow area as defined by Dickson (1991) although it is of note that there are occurrences of a persistent nature in Dunbartonshire (V.C.99) dating from 1768 up to the present day (A.McG. Stirling, pers. comm.).

In September 1994, J.A.M. found the plant on a grassy bank between the foundations of the M77 road and the Brock Burn at Kenishead, Renfrewshire, V.C.76 (NS 538603). Only one specimen was found upon which dehisced pods were observed and it may be possible that the plant may regenerate from seed, although its maintenance is questionable given the cutting regime of the habitat. This occurrence is as an introduction with the seed mixture used to sow the newly laid banks upon which the M77 runs, the top soil being derived locally (pers. comm. Henry Boot Contractors Ltd.). The soil pH at this locality was 5.95, the aspect SW and associated plants include *Holcus lanatus*, *Lolium perenne*, *Phleum pratense*, *Persicaria maculosa*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Trifolium repens* and *Tripleurospermum inodorum*.

In July 1994 P.M. noted a single plant of Yellow Bartsia at what had been the east car park at the time of the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988. Prior to that it had been the General Terminus Quay. This site is just within Lanarkshire, V.C.77. Subsequent to the Festival a small housing complex was built at the east end of the old quay and two years ago the adjacent rough ground was sown with a clover mixture. It is presumed that this was the source of introduction. The three common clovers *Trifolium hybridum*, *T. pratense* and *T. repens* were present in abundance and five yards from the Bartsia was one plant of Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum* subsp. *incarnatum*) another new vice-county record, but like the Bartsia likely to be of casual occurrence.

References

- DICKSON, J.H. 1991 *Wild Flowers of Glasgow*. Aberdeen.
 STACE, C.A. 1991 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge.

(In his *Flora of the Clyde Area* (1933) J.R. Lee mentions an earlier Renfrewshire record from near Gourock. Compiler.)

Zoological

Return of Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) to the Kilpatrick Hills J. MITCHELL

Twice before in this century Red Deer have spread south from highland Loch Lomondside to reach the Kilpatrick Hills just north of Glasgow. On these occasions the increase in deer numbers was attributed to the temporary cessation of culling due to the absence of gamekeepers and sportsmen during two world wars. In both cases all Red Deer to the south of Loch Lomond were shot-out once post-war control and sporting activities were resumed (*A Natural History of Loch Lomond*, 1974). The beginning of a third potential colonisation of the Kilpatrick Hills by Red Deer was first noted by Forest Enterprise ranger A. Fairweather in Auchineden Plantation in 1990. This was followed by further sightings in Merkins and Gartachorrans Plantations in 1992 and 1993 respectively.

Both public and private afforestation has been extensively carried out on the Kilpatrick Hills and surrounds since the mid-1960s, and additional plantings are proposed. With the substantial increase in woodland cover now available to the Red Deer there seems a much better chance that, despite some local culling being carried out, this time they will become permanently established in the Kilpatrick Hills area.

Kingfisher near Bothwell Castle MARGARET M.H. LYTH.

While walking by the bank of the River Clyde near Bothwell Castle, Uddingston, on the afternoon of 25 August 1994, I observed a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). The bird flew into thick vegetation on the river bank not far from where I was standing.